



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/951,630	10/16/1997	ARLENE M VANCE	07099.0010-0	1804

7590 03/18/2003

FINNEGAN HENDERSON FARABOW
GARRETT & DUNNER
1300I STREET N W
WASHINGTON, DC 200053315

EXAMINER

BUI, THACH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3628

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/951,630

Applicant(s)

VANCE ET AL.

Examiner

Thach H Bui

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 99-114 and 166-212 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 99-114 and 166-212 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 33. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed December 04, 2002 has been received and entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. Applicant's prior art citation filed May 31, 2002 has been received, considered and placed of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 99- 108, 166-170, 180, 185-206, and 212 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over both Acebo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,023,679).

As per claim 99, Acebo et al. teach a computer method for creating a new travel reservation comprising a database for storing information i.e. frequent trip records associated with the traveler and etc. (see Figures 1 and 28A), and a means for transmitting at least certain aspects of the trip request to a computerized reservation system (CRS) wherein a new travel reservation is automatically created (column 4, lines 53-62) (column 13, lines 15-16). The new travel reservation includes a transportation component, a lodging component, and etc. (see Figures 3 and 4). Further, Acebo et al. teach a means for a user to indicate and/or enter at least one new travel date (i.e. date,

Art Unit: 3628

month and year) associated with the trip (column 5, lines 5-21) regardless of the selected frequent trip record. Acebo et al. do not mention explicitly a means for receiving selection information reflecting a selected one of the frequent trip records. However, Acebo et al. teach a computer system having a database for storing frequent trips information; therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to understand that the system, as taught by Acebo et al. has a means for receiving selection information reflecting a selected one of the frequent trip records.

As per claims 100-108, Acebo et al. teach a means for prompting the user for the trip request by issuing the itinerary (a new travel reservation associated with the trip request and scheduled based on the provided travel date) and a means for displaying the information stored in the computer system (column 6, lines 41-45). The system also includes a means for displaying expense reports (stored in the database) associated with the user's travel reservations (see Figures 3-26). Acebo et al. have all the features of the invention but Acebo et al do not mention explicitly a means for automatically populating, creating and sorting, and prompting the particular traveler for information to complete the new expense report. However, Acebo et al. teach a database of which can be set automatically populating, creating and sorting and prompting the particular traveler for information to complete the new expense report (well-known in the art). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a system having a means for automatically

Art Unit: 3628

populating, creating and sorting, and prompting the particular traveler for information to complete the new expense report.

As per claims 166-170, 180, 185-195, the claims contain features addressed in claim 99, and therefore are rejected under the same rationale. Further, Acebo et al. teach a means for forwarding the new travel reservation to a travel agency for post processing (column 9, lines 20-24). Acebo et al. do not mention explicitly mention a means to cancel the reservation. However, Acebo et al. teach a means to indicate whether a sale has been exchanged or refunded. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled artisan in the art to realize that the system, as taught by Acebo et al. allows the user to cancel his or her reservation. Further, it would have been obvious to one skilled artisan in the art to provide a new travel reservation having the beginning date, the end date, duration of the trip and etc. to replace the cancelled trip.

As per claims 196-206 and 212, the claims contain features addressed in the above claims, and therefore, are rejected under the same rationale.

4. Claims 109-112, 171-179, 181-184, and 207-211 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over both Acebo et al. and Shoolery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,283).

As per claims 109-112, the claims contain features address in the above claims, and therefore, are rejected under the same rationale. The claims also recite a means for determining whether all components of the new travel reservation comply with the pre-determined policies or agreements. Shoolery et al. teach a means for determining whether all components of the new travel reservation comply with the pre-determined

Art Unit: 3628

policies or agreements (column 5, line 57). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of both Acebo et al. and Shoolery et al. to create a system that has a means for determining whether all components of the new travel reservation comply with the pre-determined policies or agreements.

As per claims 171-179, 181-184, the claims contain features addressed in the above claims, and therefore, are rejected under the same rationale. Both Acebo et al. and Shoolery et al. do not mention explicitly restrictions on travel reservations. However, Acebo et al. teach limitations (see Figure 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combined system of both Acebo et al. and Shoolery et al. to have system having restrictions on travel reservations.

As per claims 207-211, the claims contain features addressed in the above claims and therefore, are rejected under the same rationale.

5. Claims 113-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acebo et al. ~~and~~ in view of Shoolery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,283), and Kahl et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,625).

As per claims 113-114, both Acebo et al. and Shoolery et al. have all the features of the invention, but lack the teaching of a calendar showing at least one month divided into days having multiple icons associating with that day. Kahl et al. teach a calendar showing at least one month divided into days having multiple icons associating with that day (see Figures 2, 5 and 8). It would have been obvious to one skilled artisan in the

Art Unit: 3628

art to combine the teachings of Acebo et al., Shoolery et al. and Kahl et al. to have a system of which it contains a calendar showing at least one month divided into days having multiple icons associating with that day.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed November 27, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments have been addressed in the above paragraphs.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

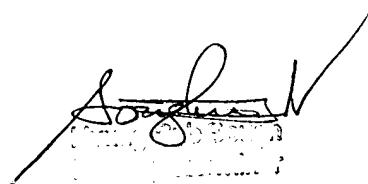
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thach H Bui whose telephone number is 703-305-0063. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough, can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

T.B.
January 23, 2003.

A handwritten signature, likely of Hyung S. Sough, is written over a rectangular stamp. The signature is in black ink and is somewhat stylized. The stamp is a light gray rectangle with some illegible text inside.